

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of analyzing cell wall components based on a hot dilute acid extraction ,  
followed by alcohol precipitation, of plant cellulosic materials such as cotton fibers or  
wood pulp. The extracts are analyzed by high pH anion exchange chromatography to  
separate and characterize the carbohydrates. This method extracts a characteristic series of  
carbohydrate multimers containing galactose, mannose and glucose. The pattern of  
multimers is indicative of origin of the cellulosic material (*e.g.*, the plant species the  
material comes from) as well as quality and processing state of the material. The alcohol  
precipitation improves the discriminating powers of the analysis so that the species of  
10 origin of plant products can be identified.